

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. Identification information input apparatus for  
inputting identification information, comprising:

5        a dial unit for inputting arbitrary alphanumeric  
characters via rotating operation and generating an electric  
signal, wherein the alphanumeric characters is assigned in  
proportion to rotation angle of the dial unit via rotating  
operation, and wherein the dial unit gives the user a click  
10      feel per unit rotation;

      a confirmation unit for confirming alphanumeric  
characters input via the dial unit;

      a conversion unit for converting the electric signal  
generated by the dial unit to the alphanumeric characters; and

15      an authentication unit for authenticating the converted  
alphanumeric characters by checking whether the alphanumeric  
characters converted by the conversion unit matches  
alphanumeric characters forming the identification  
information.

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2. Identification information input apparatus  
according to claim 1,

      wherein the conversion unit includes a conversion table  
for specifying a procedure for converting an electric signal  
25     generated by the dial unit to corresponding alphanumeric

characters, and performs conversion in accordance with the procedure written in the conversion table.

3. Identification information input apparatus  
5 according to claim 1,

wherein the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial unit by rotating the dial unit in reversed direction.

10 4. Identification information input apparatus  
according to claim 1,

wherein the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial when the rotation direction of the dial unit is reversed and alternately changes the rotation  
15 direction of the dial unit and sequentially inputs each digit of the identification information.

20 5. Identification information input apparatus  
according to claim 1, further comprising an input cancellation  
unit for canceling input operation while inputting the digits  
of the identification information.

25 6. Identification information input apparatus  
according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for  
displaying the level of the user and performs display

corresponding to the user level according to the input password.